

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application with claims 1, 6 and 12 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hughes et al., which is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the protocol processing function unit and the resource control function units are separately implemented from each other such that the protocol processing function unit or a corresponding resource control function unit may be upgraded without modifying the other respective function unit. Independent claims 6 and 12 include similar features in a varying scope.

The Office Action indicates in item (e) at page 3 that Figures 10 and 11 of Hughes et al. depict an integrated unit including a slave VSI (GSPCF) and software resource controls (MSRF) 1608 and 1610 in which both units have different functions carried out independent of each other and cites col. 8, line 36 to col. 10, line 48. However, it is respectfully noted elements 1608 and 1610 in Figure 10, for example, are smart port cards that have respective VSI slaves 1616 and 1618 (see col. 8, lines 48-52, for example). The smart port cards 1608 and 1610 are not equivalent to the claimed resource control function units for controlling a

hardware resource of the switching system, but rather are cards that are driven by the respective VSI slaves 1616 and 1618. Further, it is respectfully noted the VSI slaves 1616 and 1618 are not separately implemented from the smart port cards 1608 and 1610 such that one may be upgraded without modifying the other. That is, the smart card 1608, for example, includes the VSI slave 1616 which is an integrated unit that is replaced in its entirety.

In addition, the present invention specifically teaches the advantages of implementing the protocol processing function unit and the resource control function units separately from each other at page 18, lines 11-24, for example. In more detail, this section describes that because the protocol control function unit is separately implemented from the resource control function unit, when a different standard protocol is applied afterwards, it is necessary to change only the protocol control function unit so various control protocols can be supported. Further, when the resource control function of the switching system is changed, it is necessary to correct only the resource control function unit. Hughes et al. does not teach or suggest separately implementing the function units nor the advantages thereof as claimed by the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 6 and 12 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

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Further, the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities, and it is believed no new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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